

Amherst Recycling & Refuse Management Committee **Meeting Minutes**

September 1, 2011 • Department of Public Works • Conference Room, 4:30PM

Attending: Aaron Hayden (Select Board member), Meg Vickery, Susan Morrello, Cristina Cox Fernandes, John Root, Laurel Dickey, Brenda Davies, Guilford Mooring, Susan Waite.

- Approval of June meeting minutes

- Landfill Alternatives Subcommittee Housekeeping:

Susan spoke with the town clerk about how to establish how many people will be on the subcommittee. The full committee needs to decide how many members will be on the subcommittee. Laurel makes motion to appoint a subcommittee of three (John, Meg, and Susan M.), with the understanding that the full committee is invited and urged to attend and participate in subcommittee meetings. Passed unanimously. The understanding is that the subcommittee would meet at least one additional time per month, perhaps two.

- Zero Waste discussion:

Lynn Pledger spoke about Zero Waste at a June public meeting organized by John. She is willing to help us with zero waste efforts towards. Aaron attends today as a Select Board member with zero waste interests. He explained that the Town's master plan does not have a section addressing the town's waste situation. Aaron suggests that the committee consider drafting something. Guilford suggests that haulers' fees will likely increase when the area landfills close (and trash has to be taken further away for disposal). The term "Zero Waste" may seem to be impossible, but this allows there to be a goal that is moved towards. What does Zero Waste mean? The Commonwealth has demonstrated its commitment to the concept in the DEP's 2010-2020 Solid Waste Master Plan. Most things can be recycled or composted. Education of people to use less. John made a motion that the committee adopt Zero Waste as a goal, and that we discuss ways to move towards this goal. Passed unanimously. Committee members should do research between now and the October meeting to become informed about the Zero Waste concept. Guilford reminds us to be conscious of the carbon footprint related to various Zero Waste efforts.

- Event planning:

1. School compost coaching: 3 elementary schools are composting, coaches are needed at all 3 buildings, 11:30-1:00, T, W, Th, M of this coming week, stand at garbage disposal areas to teach students how to separate the food waste.
2. America Recycles Day: Nov. 15, 2011. Redo John's library display. Perhaps ask Aaron to speak about it on public TV.
3. Police shredding event: Will not happen this fall, perhaps in the spring.
4. Trash-Free Lunch Day (elementary schools): Committee considering moving it to the fall (because spring is so busy). Susan is working with director of lunch services on rescheduling this. Suggestion that the committee establish ground rules for the event.

- New business:

1. At CVS you can now purchase envelopes to use to dispose of unwanted/expired/unused medicine. Shipped to TX for incineration. Past April the town sponsored a free drug disposal event with the DEA. There will be another on October 29th at Wildwood school. Again, we will ask Aaron to speak about this.
 2. There was a guest column in the Bulletin “Beware the Bottle Bill.” Who could write a rebuttal? Sue Morrello will write something Motion that the letter come from the entire committee. Passed unanimously. Two issues that Guilford brings up: The increased revenue will not all be put back into recycling (it will be used for other green initiatives), and there will be less revenue generated by recycling efforts at transfer stations.
- 6:05 Meeting adjourned.